(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the newsitem entitled "High Commissioner's residence; A sell-out to UK on residential House", appearing in the Indian Express dated the 6th May, 1995;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of Government thereto;

(c) whether Government have paid a sum of Rs. 75 crores to renew the lease of the High Commissioner's residence in UK;

(d) whether the lease of High Commissioner's residence of UK in New Delhi has not been renewed for a number of years;

(e) if so, the reasons for the India Government not insisting upon the renewal of lease thereof;

(f) what is the total amount being spent by Government on the rent of our Chanceries and residences abroad; and

(g) the reasons for not constructing our permanent assets there?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) A premium of Pounds Sterling 14 million has been paid for renewal of the lease of Indian High Commissioner's residence in London for a period of 65 years beginning from April, 1990.

(d) and (e) The lease of the residence of the British High Commissioner in Delhi expired on 31st December, 1989. Negotiations have been underway with a view to renewing this lease.

(f) The amount spent by the Government on renting of our Chanceries and residences abroad was Rs. 68.89 crores in 1992-93 and Rs. 84.37 crores in 1993-94. The final figures of the financial year 1994-95 are yet to be compiled.

(g) Construction and acquisition of built up property for Chanceries and residences has been undertaken by the Government as a continuous process, depending upon the availability of budgetary resources.

Passports issued by Zonal Passport Offices

7107. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of passports issued during the last three years from various zonal passport offices of the country, zone-wise; and

(b) the average time taken in the issue of passports in the country, particularly for Punjab?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) The details are attached at Statement A. (*see* below)

(b) The average time taken in the issue of passports in the country in various passport offices is placed at Statement B (*see* below). It may be seen that 17 out of 23 passport offices have been issuing passports within sixth to eight weeks. The RPO Chandigarh (which looks after the 10 districts of Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Haryana and Union Territory of Chandigarh) issued passports in 110 days whereas Passport Office, Jalandhar takes 95 days for issue of a passport.

Statement A

(i) The number of Fresh and Miscellaneous applications received and services granted in each Passport Office during the year 1992

S.No.	Station	Fresh Applications		Miscellaneous Services	
		Received	Granted	Received	Granted
1.	Ahmedabad	133283	125321	60928	61149
2.	Bangalore	104871	123150	45363	43738
3.	Barielly	75848	71685	21900	23740
4.	Bhopal	27713	27426	10786	10796
5.	Bhubaneshwar	12808	9894	2411	2419
6.	Bombay	259374	280822	181697	182764
7.	Calcutta	60319	47119	31971	31972

S.No.	Station	Fresh Ap	ations	Miscellaneous Services	
		Received	Granted	Received	Granted
8.	Chandigarh	100565	76463	35027	35653
9.	Cochin	179871	260359	59522	62808
10.	Delhi	143812	113409	69348	68252
11.	Goa	20137	20821	18104	18062
12.	Guwahati	8175	6511	2065	2021
13.	Hyderabad	212635	264131	91357	91766
14.	Jaipur	109886	119876	31344	31680
15.	Jalandhar	112179	73891	28712	30295
16.	Kozhikode	235223	168151	69699	70849
17.	Lucknow	130861	111719	20260	21165
18.	Madras	141194	118872	54586	53551
19.	Nagpur	13893	13731	2839	2824
20.	Patna	51614	36400	8372	8026
21.	Trichy	181215	127168	97127	96753
22.	Trivandrum	157316	71506	50662	50326
	GRAND TOTAL :	2472428	2268425	994080	1000609

Statement B

(ii) The number of Fresh and Miscellaneous applications received and services granted in each Passport Office during the year 1993

S.No.	Station	Fresh Applications		Miscellaneous Services	
		Received	Granted	Received	Granted
1.	Ahmedabad	111325	124080	60467	60517
2.	Bangalore	111035	104068	32583	31532
3.	Barielly	59603	61906	29213	28566
4.	Bhopal	25833	26410	11856	11848
5.	Bhubaneshwar	10069	11114	3263	3255
6.	Bombay	211059	209480	155031	158233
7.	Calcutta	42470	51720	29796	29246
8.	Chandigarh	73766	95554	39156	37923
9.	Cochin	137771	183535	76620	76168
10.	Delhi	129632	128186	75190	72132
11.	Goa	16065	16015	15723	15780
12.	Guwahati	8840	9358	2794	2914
13.	Hyderabad	202069	215090	108142	102011
14.	Jaipur	67030	106104	28657	29875
15.	Jalandhar	80042	110070	35611	36989
16.	Kozhikode	206917	341000	103262	192911
17.	Lucknow	139215	138457	33628	33575
18.	Madras	152674	188416	66646	68047
19.	Nagpur	12934	12890	3548	3454
20.	Patna	45485	46661	13469	13270
21.	Trichy	218491	334847	56508	55433
22.	Trivandrum	124600	194319	75051	74719
	GRAND TOTAL :	2186925	2709280	1056214	1138398

(iii) Number of Fresh and Miscellaneous Applications received and the number of Passports issued

and Services rendered during the year 1994.

S. No.	RPOs/POs*	Fresh Applications		Micellaneous Services	
		No. of Applications Received	No. of Passports Granted	No. of Applications Received	No. of Passports Granted
1.	Ahmedabad	98913	160000	55072	55433
2.	Bangalore	82023	77646	31163	31995
3.	Bareilly	46604	40154	16902	16713
4.	Bhopal	20806	20690	11112	11264
5.	Bhubaneswar	7892	7706	3132	3112
6.	Bombay	202643	208282	140878	142055
7.	Calcutta	46752	43753	32236	31707
8.	Chandigarh	67098	95236	37069	33549
9.	Cochin	94933	99410	75040	74610
10.	Delhi	110375	108249	54942	54860
11.	Goa	14051	13681	13266	11115
12.	Guwahati	7400	7423	2807	2600
13.	Hyderabad	131208	141610	79337	83967
14.	Jaipur	64117	65127	25928	41376
15.	Jalandhar	80102	111002	43758	51703
16.	Kozhikode	162795	179074	116692	109924
17.	Lucknow	109715	117649	34976	35008
18.	Madras	129139	134949	59417	57914
19.	Nagpur	10118	9755	3420	3373
20.	Patna	45518	70500	13800	14356
21.	Trichy	169489	201055	73602	70886
22.	Trivandrum	95691	97022	72422	727994
23.	Jammu	10371	1431	1745	1348
	GRAND TOTAL	1807783	2011404	998716	1014662

* Regional Passport Offices/Passport Offices

Statement B

Approximate time taken to issue a passport by various Passport Offices

Sl. No.	Office	Time Taken as of 31-3-95
1.	Ahmedabad	65 days
2.	Bangalore	133 days
3.	Bareilly	38 days
4.	Bhopal	45 days
5.	Bhubaneshwar	40 days
6.	Bombay	30 days
7.	Calcutta*	32 days
8.	Chandigarh	110 days
9.	Cochin	30 days
10.	Delhi	40 days
11.	Goa	45 days
12.	Guwahati	30 days
13.	Hyderabad	45 days
14.	Jaipur	38 days
15.	Jalandhar	95 days
16.	Kozhikode	52 days
17.	Lucknow	60 days
18.	Madras	36 days
19.	Nagpur	34 days
20.	Patna	32 days
21.	Trichy	50 days
22.	Trivandrum	37 days
23.	Jammu	90 days

* RPO Calcutta as on 2-3-95.